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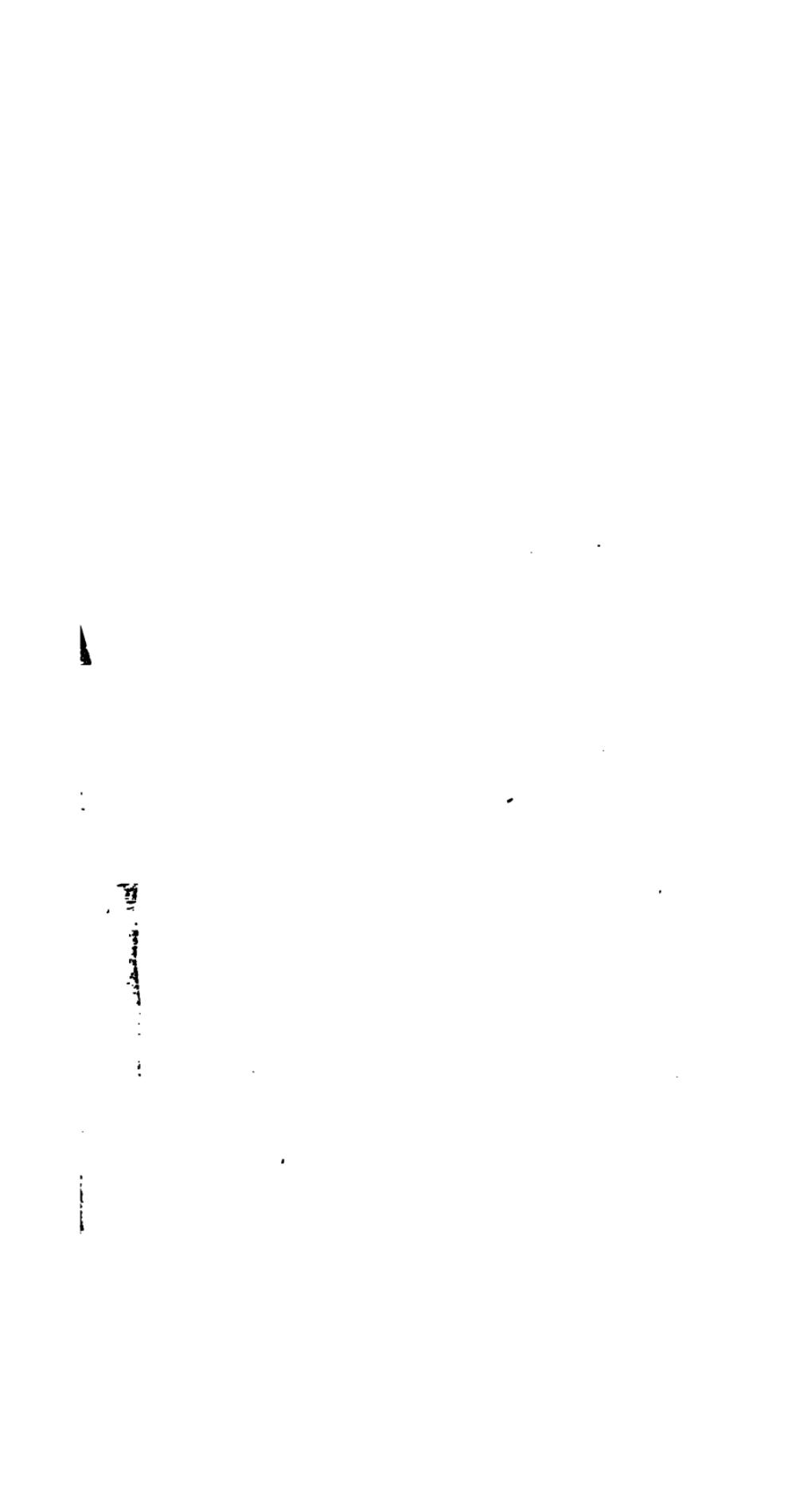
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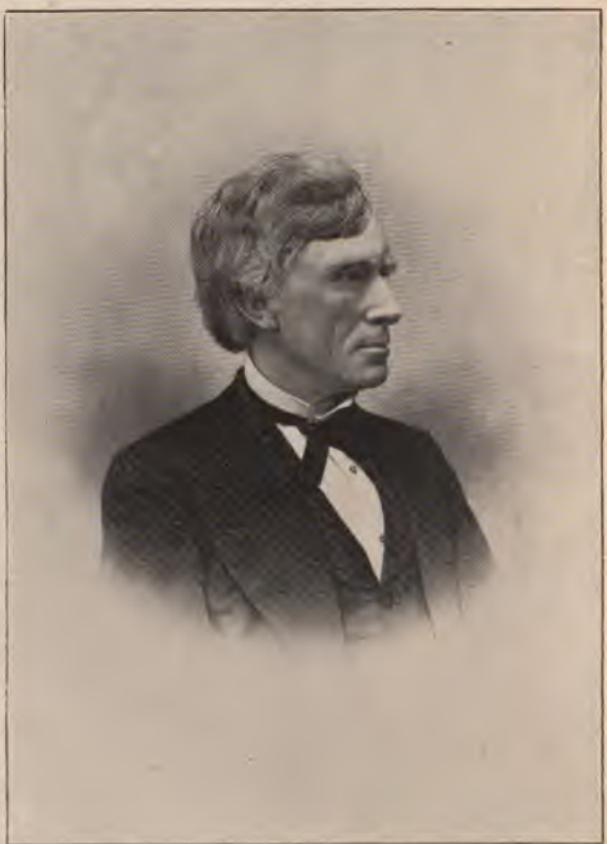
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**THE
MARK SKINNER LIBRARY**



*Tuly Yours
Mark Twain*

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PROCEEDINGS
AT
THE OPENING
OF THE
Mark Skinner Library
MANCHESTER
VERMONT



JULY SEVENTH, MDCCCXCVII

B8461.4.5

Harvard College Library
Gift of

Dr J R Chadwick
Apr. 2 1900

The Passing of Convolvulus

[In the very early morning of July 3d, 1895, the thick mass of morning-glory vines, running wild and blooming on the site of the Mark Skinner Library, were uprooted by the builders preparing for its foundations.]

I.

Dawn leaped over the hills, and lo!
Pink and white flashed into light
Down where the morning-glories blow,
Cool from the kiss of night;
Range and revel across the grass,
Dance and sway to the depths of sky,
Quiver and climb and glimmer and shine,
Droop to the dark, and die.

II.

How merry a song the builder sings!
By hammer and spade refrain is made;
And the resolute, resonant iron rings
Till the flowers falter and fade.
Then, trampled in deeps of trembling green,
The sunset-pink dies out of the grass;
In a revel of ruin and white, to their doom
The morning-glories pass.

III.

I dreamed to the beat of the builder's rhyme,
(Oh sweet and pale, early and frail!)
"The march of powers that trample on Time,
Cometh, and shall prevail!
Poet and prophet and mystic—see!—
Claim and transfigure the acres of grass;
And, dying content where that Eden shall be,
Garden of morning, pass!

—Sarah Norcliffe Cleghorn.

AND GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE LIGHT."
Motto on Book-Plate.

PROGRAMME OF OPENING EXERCISES,

Wednesday Morning, July 7th, 1897

PRESIDING OFFICER,

Rev. P. S. Pratt, D.D., of Dorset.

USHERS,

Messrs. Carl Cleghorn, Lewis Hemenway,
Russell Hoyt, John Marbury, Lewis Orvis,
George Smythe, William Spelman,
Mark Skinner Willing.

MUSIC — VILLAGE CHOIR.

Conducted by B. Sherman Fowler, of New York.

PRAYER,

By Rev. Geo. T. Smart, of Manchester.

SOLO,

Mr. D. J. Griffith, of New York.

ADDRESS,

Judge Loveland Munson, of Manchester.

MUSIC — VILLAGE CHOIR.

Directed by Mr. Fowler.

ADDRESS,

Hon. E. S. Isham, of Chicago.

MUSIC,

Misses Hoyt, of Manchester.

POEM,

Miss Sallie Norcliffe Cleghorn, of Manchester,

MUSIC — VILLAGE CHOIR.

Directed by Mr. Fowler.



RAVENSBURG
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

DEDICATION OF
THE
MARK SKINNER LIBRARY,

Manchester, Vt., July 7th, 1897

Rev. P. S. Pratt in the Chair

It is my privilege to extend a cordial welcome to the many lovers of good books who are gathered this summer morning within the cheerful rooms of this new and elegant edifice.

We come with some just appreciation of the practical value to us of the better literature of these and the former years. In the interest of the mental culture and moral elevation of any community, we recognize the importance of an extensive and well-selected library, made accessible to all who are associated in the various relations of social and civil life. And we are profoundly grateful for the wise and large generosity of the esteemed friend who has now placed such an institution in the midst of this community.

Our meeting here is for thankful prayer and cheerful song, and to hear words of instruction and inspiration from the honorable gentlemen who will address us on this occasion. Your moderator is conscious of

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small fitness for the chair, but even "a poor stick" may hold up the window for the admission of welcomed light for the mind and for the entrance of quickening thought and sentiment refreshing to the human heart and life.

CHORUS—Conducted by B. Sherman Fowler,
of New York.

"Fly Forth My Song," by Franz Abt.
Sung by Village Choir.

The Misses—

Alice Bennett,	Julia Neil,
Jane Colburn,	Isabel Smith,
Frances Eggleston,	Leta Smythe,
Clara Hemenway,	Sepha Smythe,
Frances Hoyt,	Marion Spelman,
Grace Hoyt,	Maud Swift,
Fay Neil,	Agnes Woods,

Mrs. Fowler.

Pianist—Mr. Whipple.

MARK SKINNER LIBRARY

Prayer at the Opening of the
MARK SKINNER LIBRARY,

July 7, 1897, by Rev. G. T. Smart

Almighty God, we come before Thee today with joy and gratitude. Thy gifts and mercies are beyond our thoughts. Thou art without variableness or shadow of turning. We thank Thee for the life of the mind, and we rejoice in the opportunities of knowledge —even for the high mind of Christ, and the knowledge that leadeth to Thy throne. We thank Thee for human beneficence which speaks again Thine infinite love to men, and comes to their help against clamorous deprivations of life. We thank Thee for the open doors Thou dost show to us, and the enlarged place Thou dost beckon us to enter. For all these powers we give Thee thanks.

And now we ask Thy blessing upon Thy servant, and servants who have made these high gifts more ready to our hands. We praise Thee for the noble life this monument recalls. We give Thee thanks for its gentle influence, which hath descended to the next generation, blessing and aiding those who knew it not in the flesh. Bless Thou Thy servant who hath

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had closest knowledge of these matters, and grant that her work of love, so fair before our eyes, may give her joy, and be unto her a perpetual harvest of fruits. Remember Thou in Thy mercy those who are dear in her home—those who have aided in the labor that we enjoy to-day. Guard Thou them all from evil, and may the light of Thy love shine upon them.

Give, O Lord, unto the officers of this Library wisdom and discreetness in the direction of its affairs. May its beauty be kept unspoiled, and its usefulness grow with added years, so that their charge shall be worthily borne. Give, also, Our Father, wisdom to those who shall use this gift, from the oldest to the youngest, so that they shall use it aright. May these Thy children who, year by year shall draw from its treasures, return the same by a knowledge and love of truth, and may we all grow in the grace and personality of Thy dear Son. Hear Thou our prayer, and grant unto us Thy love, for we ask and render all in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SOLOS—By Mr. D. J. Griffith, of New York.

“Speed On,” by Roeckel.

“The Two Grenadiers,” by Schumann.

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Address by Judge Loveland Munson of
Manchester

It has been the good fortune of our State to retain in a marked degree the affection of her children who have become residents of other Commonwealths. The son of Vermont who remains at the old homestead may be somewhat heedless of the charm of his heritage; but that charm never loses its hold upon his absent brother, whatever the advantages of his new environment. Of no section of the state is this truer than of Manchester; of no individual is this truer than of the honored son of Manchester, in whose memory the Mark Skinner Library is this day dedicated.

It may be said of the late Judge Skinner that he was exceedingly fortunate in his parentage. His father, Richard Skinner, was the most prominent and honored citizen of our town. His mother, Fanny Pierpoint, was of a family which gave many distinguished men to the service of the State. They were residents of Manchester through all the years of their maturity, enjoyed from first to last the sincere regard of their fellow-townspeople, and were buried in the village church-yard with their neighbors and friends. It is not unlikely

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that the long and fortunate connection of his parents with our community was an important factor in determining Judge Skinner to do the town some special service. It is certain that his reverent care of their resting-place gave direction to his beneficent purpose.

It was in the year 1800 that Richard Skinner, then 22 years of age and fresh from the Litchfield law school, became a resident of Manchester and commenced the practice of his profession. He was appointed State's attorney for Bennington county in the second year of his practice, was elected judge of probate for the district of Manchester five years later, and was continued in those offices until called to more important fields of service. He was a member of Congress from 1813 to 1815. He was three times chosen Governor of the State. He was a judge of the Supreme Court of the State for eight years, and was the first chief judge of the court as now organized. The esteem in which he was held is sufficiently attested by the fact that for twenty-eight years, and until his voluntary retirement, he was continuously in the public service.

The world gives generous praise to one of humble origin who lifts himself above the level of his birth. Perhaps equal praise is due to him who sustains and transmits without impairment the reputation of an honored

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ancestry. It is not necessary to remind this audience how well Mark Skinner met the obligations of his birth. His parents left him an honored name, and it suffered no loss in his keeping. They trained him to high ideals of life and duty, and he was true to those ideals in every fiber of his being. Our townsmen of that day gave to his father their entire confidence and unswerving support, and he repaid the kindness to their children and secured the repayment to their children's children through all time.

It may be difficult for some of us to realize that Judge Skinner was never a permanent resident of Manchester after his boyhood. He graduated from Middlebury College at the age of 20, a few weeks after his father's death; gave two years to the study of law in Connecticut; and then went forth to seek his fortune in the West. But as soon as he was fairly established in home and business he began to spend his vacations in Manchester, and for nearly forty years, with scarcely an exception, he passed at least a part of the summer here. It is not for us to speak of his successful and honorable career in the city of his adoption. We knew him as the gentleman of quiet dignity who walked our streets observant of every change; who visited and revisited the different points of vantage to gaze upon the glories of the summer land-

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scape ; who dropped into our places of business to talk of the old times and the old people; who conferred with us from time to time concerning the needs of the town, and his plans and hopes for its future. Those with whom he discussed these matters could not fail to see how completely he felt that he was identified with the town by his birth and associations, and how pleased he was to count himself one of us in everything that made for its prosperity. And it may not be improper to recall that on one of these occasions he referred with manifest feeling to the great pleasure he had in the fact that his son-in-law, his companion of many summers, shared his affection for the town, and heartily sympathized with him in his purposes concerning it.

Judge Skinner's distinctive gift to the town is the Dellwood Cemetery. It was the result of his thought and influence. It was established largely by his means. He gave frequent and careful attention to its supervision. To watch over it, and plan for it, and note its increasing beauty, was his yearly delight. Its beautiful main entrance was his special gift to the corporation in its early days. In the last years of his life he completed his design by the erection of a building for the occupancy of its superintendent. He met all the contingencies of its management while he lived, and gave it a liberal endowment by his

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will. For over thirty years this cemetery has been one of the most beautiful features of our town, and an influence for good among its people. It will be maintained through coming generations, and continue to tell of its founder's regard for the memory of his parents and his good-will to his native town.

But the Dellwood Cemetery does not represent all Judge Skinner's benefactions to this community. He was a frequent, and in some instances a constant, contributor to its various institutions. Of these may be mentioned the church which his parents attended, the seminary founded by his father's friend and client, the Grand Army Post named for his son who fell in the siege of Petersburg. And inasmuch as he took pleasure in his last days in believing that his children and grandchildren would inherit his love for the town, it is clearly permissible to mention here that these contributions have been continued since his death by members of his family.

In view of what we know of Judge Skinner it is safe to say that he was fortunate in the circumstances of his death. His last days were spent in his native place. He died in the hotel apartment which he occupied in his early vacations, still attended by the wife of his youth. His fellow-townspeople found his remains in the house of his parents, awaiting burial. Among those who attended them to

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their resting-place were many descendants of his father's friends. He sleeps in his family lot, on the border of the old graveyard, and in the midst of the beautiful cemetery of his creation, where every tombstone speaks of the friendships of a century.

For nearly ten years we have seen the name of our honored friend upon the granite which marks his grave, and have thought of the cemetery itself as a beautiful and enduring memorial of his life. And now there has arisen to his memory this additional monument—a building richly stored with books and dedicated to the public use. Certainly there could not be a more fitting memorial of one whose constant aim was to do some good to his fellow-men. It stands, a conspicuous ornament in the green of his native village. From its windows are seen the mountains of his admiration. It contains the cherished books of his private library. Its walls are adorned with the pictures that he loved. As we look upon this beautifully appointed building it is impossible to doubt that the youth who frequent it will gain from it something of the spirit of the refined and kindly gentleman whose name it bears.

The institution is largely entrusted to the care of those who were associated with Judge Skinner in the management of the Dellwood Cemetery. But the immediate conduct of

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the Library in its relation to the public is entrusted to a larger and more representative body, which, it is hoped, will not only assist in its care, but take active measures to extend its benefits. It is to be expected that those who are entrusted with these corporate and administrative duties will feel the obligation imposed by their appointment. But the sense of obligation should not be limited to them. Every citizen of Manchester, and every holder of a book, should feel himself a sharer in the responsibilities of the trust.

Once again in its fortunate history our town is the recipient of a splendid gift. It is not likely that one of us realizes the full measure of its promise to the people of this valley. But its immediate and obvious benefits to those who are about to draw from its stores are sufficient to command the liveliest sense of gratitude. In the absence of any formal declaration of this feeling, it will not be deemed presumptuous in me to express the grateful acknowledgments of this community for the gift, and to pledge their best endeavors in its care and support.

The daughter who has founded this Library in memory of her father, and in fulfillment of a long cherished design, is here to welcome the public to its privileges. More grateful to her than spoken praise will be the knowledge that her gift is freely used, and that its use is

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promoting the cause of good reading and good morals. May she live long to receive this proof of our appreciation of her gift, and to rejoice in the good that her work has accomplished. And when the close of her life shall draw near, surely no thought of earthly import can mingle better with those of the life beyond, than the thought of young and old entering this building, and drawing strength and inspiration from its volumes, through the unnumbered generations of the future.

Chorus by village choir.
“Good-night,” by G. P. Goldberg.

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Address of Hon. Edward S. Isham, LL.D.
of Chicago

I am sure we all have one experience in common to-day. It is quite impossible to stand amidst these surroundings and not be impressed with the nobility of purpose and of sentiment which has called them into being. An ancient philosopher, as well as historian, has left the observation that "In all battles the eyes are vanquished first;" and among these shelves, already bearing an accumulation of about 12,000 volumes, and in the beautiful rooms of this building which, devoted to the uses of study and refinement, honors equally the founder and the artist-architect, Mr. F. W. Stickney, who designed and built it,—and who is sitting here with us,—we render a prompt and sincere homage to the impulse which has aimed to unite with the permanent memorial of a distinguished life and character, most worthy, as you have been impressively told, to be remembered and made an example, a permanent foundation of help to all who will help themselves, and a powerful allurement to all of us to walk in paths that lead to enlightenment, to better informed judgment, and to the refine-

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ment of society and the embellishment of life.

The transition is most natural from the thought of this memorial of great character and civic virtue to appreciation of the factor for which it stands in its relation to the community in which it is established, and of the moral obligation which its presence imposes. For do not for a moment imagine that any community can receive such an indweller into its midst, and in all other respects remain simply the same as before. There comes with it an obligation, sanctioned by inevitable penalty, to yield it attention, to rouse up and to *use* it. It is a law in the moral nature that it is exalted or abased by its exercise. If in any instance of casual appeal to your sympathies you yield to it, that very exercise expands your sensibilities and lifts the moral plane on which you stand. If you stifle your kindly impulse and harden your soul, your moral plane is lowered by the effect of the very act itself. In neither case are you the same as before. There is no stationary moment in character and the law is inexorable. The presence of this Library brings a corresponding crisis which you cannot escape. If you promote its influence and usefulness you will advance in intelligence and civilization. If you turn a cold shoulder toward it, you will choose the path which

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leads to the stolid conditions of the mass of mankind.

Apparently the most serious obstacle to the acquirement and the accumulation of the knowledge important to the advancement of civilized society is the shortness of human life. Given its longest duration, when that is reduced by the periods of old age and youth, by the time consumed by illness and sleep and the needs of subsistence, the term available to any one individual is extremely short. If each must begin his work at the beginning the field of acquirement must be insignificant. Without literature and its preservation the gain of civilization is hopeless. The operation of libraries tends to prolong, in effect indefinitely, the term of a human life. They make an accumulation possible, through successive generations, of every detail of knowledge which any one may acquire during the period of individual life, so that every bit of solid ground may be held. To that extent the effect of mortality is evaded, for the work of successive lives is united and combined as if it were the product of the continuous labor of one protracted life. Individuals fall rapidly into the abyss and disappear, but the sequence of thought and knowledge is caught up where the individual lets go of it. Thoughts and sentiments also, once existent, go on begetting thought and senti-

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ment in an infinite continuance without analogy in what we call physical nature. Life is the product of Death, it is taught in the Phaedo. Every blossom dies in maturing its fruit and seed, and the tree that develops them all dies in its turn. But the flowers of the spirit and of the intellect do not perish, and there is apparently no death underlying the infinite sequence of this psychologic generation. A form of immortality is thus given to intellectual and spiritual man which enables him to hold back oblivion and to ward off the shadows from some part of the field on which he dwells.

After all, the great object of pursuit, for which we would save every grain of knowledge, is the ultimate truth about man,—his origin, his relations, and his future. We want the truth as to the existence, the nature, and the destiny of what we conceive of and term the human spirit, distinct from its entanglement and its sensible conditions. We want to verify and extend the indications and the knowledge that come from introspection and reflection,—from intellectual man's study and scrutiny of himself subjectively. In the face of revelations which have failed to be intelligible, of books carefully inspired and then left subject to all the vicissitudes of writings of ordinary origin, the least bits of well-founded knowledge acquired by the effort of

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man himself are of importance to be saved,—an importance sharing that of the ultimate truth itself, and growing with any apparent approach toward its attainment. We may recall the warning of M. Renan, that the truth, when we shall have found it out, may prove to be a very *triste* discovery after all; but we want enlargement, nevertheless, of the science lying in that domain. In that philosophy, however, there seems to be no more gain of ground, and little increment seems to come to it from exploration of the physical world and of our objective relations.

It is not overlooked that physiologists, during the very latest period, have noted the facts of chemical and physical change in the nerve tissues, and have tracked the course of nerve excitation along its path toward and into the brain, with such minute scrutiny that the area of uncertainty is narrowed almost to disappearance within which lies the point at which sensation appears and the physical impulse connects with psychic faculties of consciousness. And doubtless it is speculation no longer that a parallel is traceable in the evolution of the nerve system and the evolution or appearance of psychical faculties; and that every physical impulse results ultimately in a voluntary or involuntary act. Certainly the state of knowledge upon this subject has been lately changed, and the course of current

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ideas greatly disturbed. But this nearer approach of the physiologist to the point of connection does not tend to prove that physical irritation of nerve-fibre and the psychic faculties of consciousness, judgment, and emotion, which suddenly appear in association with it are identical in nature or are mere forms of the same impulse. It is still as true as it was in the times of Socrates and Simmias that if they were identical they could never be at variance, and that there could exist only accord and agreement all along from the first nerve excitation to the resultant voluntary act, and that no opposition of will and endeavor would be supposable. Nor would there be supposable the arising at any point of a new force assuming to lead or to give new direction or character to the impulse. Nothing tends to explain the sudden rising up and coming into play of a resisting force exercising psychical faculties of will and judgment, assuming to check and rebuke the physical impulses, and asserting authority over life to subject it to government by moral principles. Philosophy has in this domain gained no new acquisition from physiology or chemistry.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, introspection and reflection seem now to be equally ineffectual. Apparently they merely lead round and round in their old circles, and the body

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of knowledge to be gained thereby seems to have reached its bounds. All that from those sources we know now, and every profound conception, or discovery in psychology to which we have attained, and all the tricks of the mind which are imagined to underlie supposed modern methods of psychological treatment, were reached by those who went before us countless ages ago. M. Mariette stood startled upon the threshold of an Egyptian tomb whose darkness was at that moment broken for the first time in thousands of years, for in the light dust upon the ancient floor he saw remaining the departing footprints of the men who in remote ages had already been there, and had left the occupant in his long abode. In like way men find their profoundest conceptions of philosophy attended with evidences that they have been the possession of the human intellect throughout all the ascertainable history of the race. There is here a certain measure which has value, for it shows that in the remote times of which we are accustomed to speak as primitive days of the race, men had accomplished intellectual achievements, and had attained in abstract philosophy to conceptions of justice and right, of social, moral, and religious duty and responsibility which prove them to have been then as far from primitive intellectual action and the dawn of intelligence as we

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are now; and the antiquity of high development and of civilization is carried indefinitely back into ages buried now in impenetrable darkness. Whatever knowledge of particular facts may have come to us, we have no information of any antiquity when the power of the human intellect was not seemingly as great as it is to-day. In considering the value of the ancient libraries which we know to have once existed, and to have been ruthlessly destroyed, it seems very doubtful whether, if they were all restored, they would yield us anything more in this domain of philosophy and science than we have. It may well be doubted if in this domain any substantial acquisition has been lost which the intellect of man has once obtained.

But when we turn our faces outward, and to the results of thought expended objectively and upon external relations; to investigations in the field of physical science; to the conservation of the records of history, and to literature, which is the *expression of the activities* of the human spirit, of its affections and sensibilities, the state of affairs is different. Doubtless much ancient knowledge has been lost concerning geography, history, and physical phenomena. In Tuscany and in Arabia, in Africa and in Egypt, in China and in India, in the Pacific Islands and in the central regions of the American continents, are

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evidences of high civilizations which owed nothing to any times or peoples of which we have any history, and from which, more probably, the latter derived the advanced states of thought and intelligence of which they are seen to be in full possession when they first appear to us. If we could stand in the halls of the great library of King Osymandyas, or if we could have now the sources of information that were accessible to the great King Ouenephes, who, more than two thousand years before Abraham was born, built the pyramid in platforms at Sakkarah, probably the oldest building in the world; if we had the records which in the East were available to the Greeks of Alexander's time, which they neglected to study and preserve, we might perhaps know something of the conditions and forms of organization of society under which those prehistoric civilizations flourished; and might know whether or not, in the now dimly but surely discerned municipal organizations of Phoenicia and of more ancient Arabia, which they carried wherever they colonized, there appeared any hint of the conditions toward which we seem now to be tending. We might perhaps know all the truth about that tale of Atlantis which the priests of Sais communicated to Solon. We might know whether the Phoenicians crossed the Atlantic to the continent of America;

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whether they, voyaging down the Red Sea, came by Ceylon and Samoa to the coasts of South America, and what civilization, Aztec or other, they found there or inspired.

All this is but a part of the service of libraries as the general conservator of literature, and its protector against the destructive forces of time, the changing taste, and the neglect, and fanaticism of men. The author of the second book of Maccabees says that "speech finely framed delighteth the ears of them that read the story;" but this fine framing that may be accomplished in letters is the least material part of all. Literature includes the verbal expression of what we know, or think we do, of the world we are in, of physical science and of philosophy. It includes all the records we have of history, and all the creeds and foundations of religious dogma and belief. It includes all the speculative thought and the fiction and poetry, all the play of imagination and fancy with which men have beguiled their burden of time and entertained themselves and the world. But this is not all. Into it has come the revelation of the innermost recesses of the human soul. All the humiliation and the glory; all the sobs and the hymns; all the exaltation and the remorse; all the crime and the purity; all the aspirations and the ecstasy; the disappointments and the despair; the temptation and the self-

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denial and consecration,—all these have found their way into and have become a part of literature. In its subtle revelations the most elusive and obscure elements of the soul in all ages may be detected, as the constitution of the sun and stars may be studied in the spectrum. As in the weird rays of the spectrum, there come to us the “broken lights” of a great original, something of that mysterious gleam which is seen in gems—a strange light which they seem to bring with them from eternity.

It is but a little time since the universal diffusion of knowledge was urged without a demurring voice. It was thought to be the sure guarantee of the security and peace of society. But now the matter of public education is presenting some formidable issues to be faced and dealt with. Under its influence the bottom levels of the state are disturbed by the inquiries of criticism and discontent concerning social organization and politics. Probably what is needed there is not more attainable knowledge, so much as more force and steadiness of character in applying what we know, and more improved and potent conscience; but we stand in our turn like Oedipus at Thebes, where we *must solve* the enigma presented or must perish. The patient endurance that has watched with the same sad smile for untold ages over the waste

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of time, may grow inexorable and cruel. It begins to seem as if the Fabian principles and methods of English socialism had gained more foothold among men given to such speculation in a sort of cloister life among books than is appreciated; and it may very well be that the forms of society will be rapidly recast; and social revolutions involve terrible things in their process. There ought not to be danger in the ultimate results of inquiries conducted with increasing intelligence and with the increasing benefit of experience, though behind the calm and philosophic brow of rational inquiry is the spirit and structure of the beast. But God said, "Let there be Light;" that is the legend adopted by this Library; and whether we like it or not, men will go on with their groping and their restless beating against existing things. And meanwhile we have always before us, to be met with such intelligence and courage as we can command, the portentous question: "What shall we see when at last there is Light?"

DUETS—Sung by the Misses Hoyt.

"Nocturne" }
"Angelus" } by Chaminade.

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Poem.—By Miss Sarah Norcliffe
Cleghorn

The green heights meet to purple bloom afar;
The lowland roads through daisies run,
All night the heavens marshal star on star,
From sun to brilliant sun.

Peace dreams in verdurous places, put to
sleep
With drowsy ale of summer brew;
The lush grass thickens to a shady deep,
By waters cool and blue.

But greener in the house of knowledge stand
Olympian hills, the hills of thought;
Purple and golden this Elysian land,
With milk and honey fraught.

And most ambrosial summers ripen here,
And neither pale, nor wane, nor cease,
But flush Hesperian apples all the year,
In courts of marbled peace.

Here peoples of all tongues like kinsmen
bide,
And here the deeds of scholars shine;
Here science girds the planets to her side,
Before the muses nine.

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The ancient, grave, and suave philosophies,
The feastful poets delicate,
Are here; and with their subtle shining eyes,
Ascetics pale and great.

And set apart, in alcoves full of ease,
The few and venerable best,
Serene forever, folding silences
About their place of rest.

Year after year their gracious fellowship
Shall mould us to the larger soul;
About their banquet-table, cup to lip,
Drinking the laurelled bowl.

Coherent, ripe, and sane; desiring well,
And well achieving; large of sight,
Serene and tolerant, sinewy, forcible,
Lovers of grace and light.

Then to one woman's deed shall rise from us
Great praise and glad, in volumed flow,
Like priestly fires, rising odorous
To Pallas, long ago.

MUSIC—By Village Choir.
“Chorus of Spinning Maidens.”



MARK SKINNER LIBRARY

An Act to Incorporate the
MARK SKINNER LIBRARY

*It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly
of the State of Vermont:*

SECTION 1. Frances Skinner Willing, Henry J. Willing, Edward S. Isham, Ambrose Cramer, all of Chicago, Illinois, Loveland Munson, Samuel G. Cone, Franklin H. Orvis, Jesse N. Hard, Allen L. Graves, Eli J. Hawley, and David K. Simonds, all of Manchester, in this state, and their successors, are hereby constituted a corporation by the name of The Mark Skinner Library, for the purpose of receiving, holding, managing, and maintaining a library in said town of Manchester; and by that name may sue and be sued, and have a common seal and perpetual succession, and all the privileges incident to corporations.

SEC. 2. Such corporation may take and hold as endowment for the purpose aforesaid, by gift, grant, devise, bequest, purchase, or otherwise, property, real, personal, or mixed; and the said Frances Skinner Willing having already built and equipped a library building with the purpose of conveying it to such corporation, and further gifts thereto being

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probable, it is hereby enacted that the lawful provisions of any will, deed, or other instrument by which endowment is given to said corporation, if such endowment is accepted by said corporation, shall as to such endowment be a part of the fundamental law of such corporation.

SEC. 3. The corporation shall consist of eleven members, five of whom shall be residents of Manchester, and all but five residents of this state. Vacancies caused by the death or retirement in any manner of the three corporators first above named, may be filled by the testamentary or other written appointment of the said Frances Skinner Willing. Any vacancy otherwise occurring, and, in default of such appointment, any of the vacancies above specified, shall be filled by the remaining members of the corporation, within two years, at an annual meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

SEC. 4. The officers of the corporation shall be chosen by the members thereof for such terms as may be prescribed by its by-laws, and shall include a president, secretary, treasurer, and an executive committee of five. The concurrence of eight shall be necessary for the election of the treasurer and members of the executive committee. Votes for the election of officers may be cast by proxy.

SEC. 5. Annual meetings of the corpora-

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tion shall be held at the library building on the last Wednesday in August, and special meetings shall be called on the order of the president or the written request of three members. Five shall be a quorum for the transaction of business at an annual or special meeting.

SEC. 6. The first meeting of the corporation shall be held in Manchester on the call of Frances Skinner Willing, at such time and place as she may designate by a communication mailed to each member at least ten days before the time appointed; at which meeting or some adjournment thereof the corporators shall effect an organization, and adopt by-laws for the regulation of the corporation and its officers and the management and control of its library and other property. By-laws may be afterwards adopted, repealed, or amended at any annual meeting, or at any special meeting in the call for which notice of the proposed action has been given, and not otherwise.

SEC. 7. The corporation may entrust the immediate conduct of the administration of the library and the care of the library building and grounds, subject to its own complete control in every respect and at all times, to a committee of administration consisting of not more than eighteen persons, none of whom shall be members of the corporation, nine of

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whom at least shall be residents of Manchester, and twelve of whom shall be residents of the north shire of Bennington county; and the corporation may provide by its by-laws for the selection, organization, continuance, and supervision of such committee of administration, and for its term of service and that of its several members.

SEC. 8. No one shall receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, for his services as a member or officer of said corporation; and the corporation shall have no power to vote or allow compensation for service on the committee of administration.

SEC. 9. This act shall take effect from its passage, and may be altered, amended, or repealed, by future legislatures as the public good may require.

Approved November 24th, 1896.

MARK SKINNER LIBRARY

Organization

The corporation was organized July 3d, 1897, by the adoption of by-laws and the election of the following officers:

President, Loveland Munson.

First Vice-President, Henry J. Willing.

Second Vice-President, Edward S. Isham.

Secretary, David K. Simonds.

Corresponding Secretary, George T. Smart.

Treasurer, Jesse N. Hard.

Executive Committee:

Allen L. Graves.

Henry J. Willing.

Franklin H. Orvis.

Eli J. Hawley.

David K. Simonds.

Prudential Committee:

Edward S. Isham.

Loveland Munson.

Jesse N. Hard.

The Committee of Administration provided for by Section 7 of the charter was thereupon appointed as follows:

Mr. Theodore Swift.

Mr. George L. Towsley.

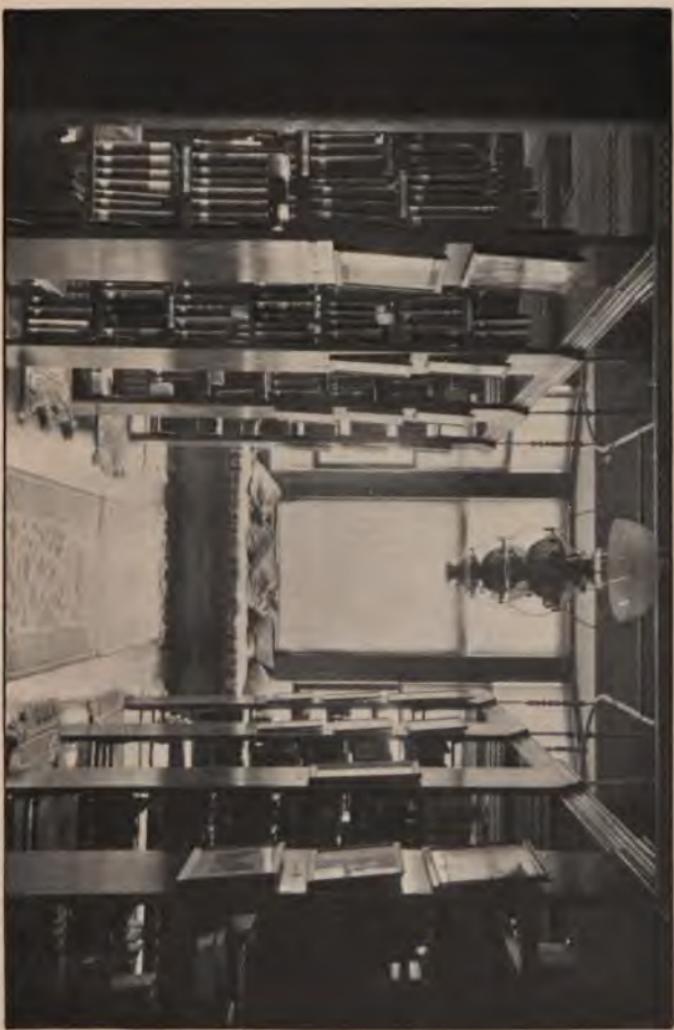
Mr. George Smith.

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Mrs. L. H. Hemmway.
Mrs. Mary U. Robbins.
Miss Wilhelmina D. Hawley.
Miss Elizabeth Skinner.
Miss Fredereka Skinner.
Mrs. Ambrose Cramer.
Miss Anne Eliza Isham.
Miss Evelyn P. Willing.
Miss Frances Isham.
Mrs. Loveland Munson.
Mrs. Edward C. Orvis.
Miss Julia F. Hawley.
Mrs. Fanny G. Strong.
Mrs. E. L. Wyman.
Miss Bertha M. Pratt.

At a special meeting of the corporation held on the 31st day of July, 1897, there was tendered to the corporation the following

DEED:



MARK SKINNER LIBRARY

Deed

WHEREAS, I, Frances Skinner Willing, grantor herein, have built a library building in the village of Manchester, and have furnished and equipped the same, and have placed and established therein a library consisting now of about 12,000 volumes, and have built and furnished said building and established said library therein for the purpose of conveying it and making a gift thereof to THE MARK SKINNER LIBRARY, a corporation created by an Act of the Legislature of the State of Vermont, approved November 24th, 1896, and of making such conveyance and gift under and in accordance with the provisions of said Act of said Legislature, and particularly of the second section thereof; and WHEREAS, it is my purpose likewise to increase and extend the equipment and the Library aforesaid, and to provide a revenue, and eventually a capital fund therefor, for the proper maintenance of said property and Library, and the administration and conduct thereof; THEREFORE *I now state and declare* certain provisions which are to be given effect by said corporation in managing, maintaining, and administering said Library and the property and fund and revenue aforesaid, viz.:

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FIRST: That the library building shall be used for the custody of such books or other publications only, and such only shall be purchased with the funds or revenues of the Library, as shall be socially elevating in their tendency and character, and upon a high moral plane according to the Christian system of morals. I prefer that French fiction and drama shall be excluded, excepting only such works as unequivocally conform to the standard above indicated.

SECOND: That my daughter, Evelyn Pierpont Willing, and my sisters, Elizabeth and Frederika Skinner and Susan Pierpont (Skinner) Cramer, and my cousins, Anne Eliza and Frances Isham, may be made and continue during their lives, respectively, members of the committee of administration mentioned in section seven (7) of the Act of the Legislature aforesaid.

THIRD: That from the revenues of the Library such reasonable proportion as may be necessary from time to time, shall be first applied in upholding, in thoroughly good and sound condition, and substantially in as good condition as they are in now, the library building and grounds and furniture and the books in the Library.

FOURTH: That the corporation shall adopt from time to time, as far as a reasonable use of the revenues of the corporation may justify,

MARK SKINNER LIBRARY

such improved methods of lighting and heating the library building as shall give in their judgment the greatest degree of security to the building and its contents.

FIFTH: That literature relating to the social and political history and physical geography and natural history of Vermont, New England and America, giving priority to those regions in the restrictive order named, may be made a special feature of the Library, and that this feature may be favored so far as reasonable and judicious expenditure of the resources of the Library may justify.

SIXTH: That the building and Library shall be kept open for the use of the public at substantially the hours in the morning, afternoon, and evening now designated by the regulations already adopted by said corporation, and that said daily hours may not be reduced in number, but such reasonable provision may be made of occasions for cleaning, renovating or repairing the library building or its contents, and for holidays, as may from time to time be found important by the corporation.

SEVENTH: That local depots may be established in such of the smaller and more remote villages in the north shire of Bennington County as may be approved by authority of the corporation, where, under proper safeguard and control, books which may properly

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be withdrawn from the Library may be temporarily deposited so as to be more conveniently accessible, under the regulations of the Library, to the inhabitants of such villages.

Accordingly, THIS INSTRUMENT WITNESSETH that

We, Henry J. Willing and the said Frances Skinner Willing, his wife, of Chicago, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, do remise, release, and forever quit-claim unto THE MARK SKINNER LIBRARY, a corporation chartered and organized under the laws of the State of Vermont, and located at Manchester, in the County of Bennington, in said State, and to its successors and assigns, all right and title which we, the said grantors or our heirs, have in and to the following land in said Manchester, described as follows: One piece being a certain lot in the village of Manchester, formerly occupied by D. K. Simonds, and bounded as follows: On the north by land formerly owned by Mrs. Jennie Beebe, and afterward conveyed to Franklin H. Orvis, and on the east, south, and west by public highways leading through said village of Manchester. Also one other piece bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of the lot above described, on the east side of North Main Street in the village of Manchester; thence northerly on the east side

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of said street five (5) rods; thence easterly to Main Street in said village at a point four (4) rods northerly of the northeast corner of the lot above described; thence southwesterly along said Main Street to the northeast corner of said lot above described; thence westerly on the north line of said lot above described to the place of beginning. Meaning hereby to convey the same and all the lands conveyed to the said Frances Skinner Willing by two deeds, one from D. K. Simonds and wife, dated October 20, 1893, and recorded in Manchester Land Records, book 22, page 519; the other from Franklin H. Orvis, dated November 11, 1893, and recorded at page 530 of said book; to which deeds and the records thereof reference may be had for further description of the premises. Together with all the books, furniture, pictures, and apparatus in the library building on said premises and any other property now in said library building as a part of the equipment thereof.

To have and to hold the above remised, released, and quit-claimed premises, with the appurtenances thereof, to the said MARK SKINNER LIBRARY, its successors and assigns, to its and their own use and benefit forever, so that neither the said grantors, nor their heirs or assigns, shall hereafter have any right or title in or to said quit-claimed premises.

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Witness our hands and seals this 31st day
of July, A.D. 1897.

FRANCES SKINNER WILLING. [Seal.]

HENRY J. WILLING. [Seal.]

In presence of

LEWIS H. HEMENWAY.

GEORGE T. SMART.

STATE OF VERMONT, } ss.
BENNINGTON COUNTY. }

At Manchester, in said county, this 31st
day of July, A.D. 1897, personally appeared
Henry J. Willing and Frances Skinner Will-
ing, his wife, and severally acknowledged this
instrument, sealed and subscribed by them,
to be their free act and deed.

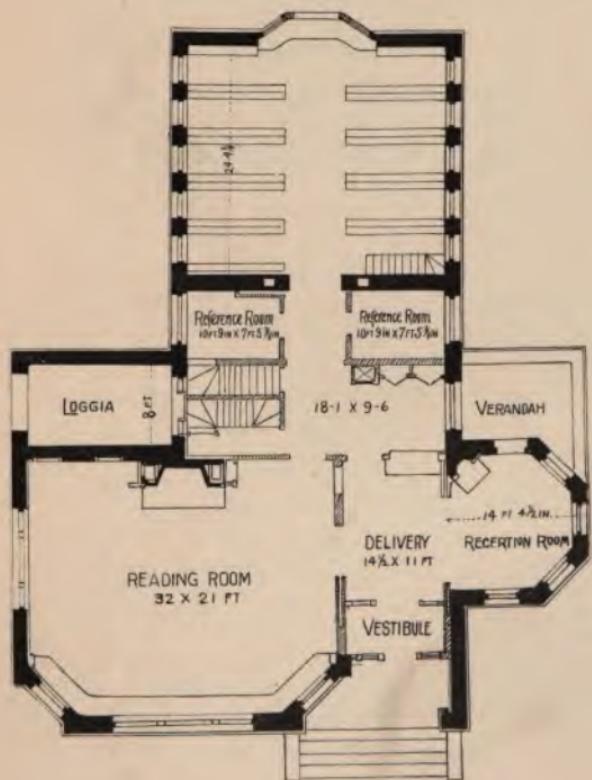
Before me,

W. B. EDGERTON,

Notary Public.

The deed tendered to the corporation hav-
ing been read, the following resolution was
adopted:

Resolved, That this corporation do hereby
accept said deed of gift and conveyance for
the purposes of the trust upon which said
conveyance is made, and with sentiments of
gratitude and profound appreciation of the
generosity and motive of the grantor, and of
respect and veneration for the memory and
character of him of whom it is a memorial,



GROUND PLAN OF THE LIBRARY.

MARK SKINNER LIBRARY

and that the Secretary be directed to place said deed upon record.

EXTRACT FROM LIBRARY RULES.

"The Library will be open secular days, except holidays, from 10 A. M. to 12:30 P. M.; from 2 P. M. to 5 P. M.; from 7 P. M. to 9 P. M."

Mark Skinner

**Extracts (by permission) from an address by E.
W. Blatchford, Esq., read before the Historical
Society, of Chicago, December 13th, 1887**

Mark Skinner

Mark Skinner, the son of Gov. Skinner of Vermont, was born at Manchester, September 13, 1813, and was the only one of three sons who grew up to maturity, his brothers having died in infancy. He received a thorough education. At the age of ten he was placed in a school at Bennington, and subsequently in one at Troy, N. Y. His preparation for college was received at the Pittsfield Academy, Mass., then under the charge of Professor Dewey, an eminent teacher of that day. In 1830, he entered the sophomore class of Middlebury College, Vt., then in the height of its prosperity.

Inheriting from his father a predilection for the law, immediately upon his graduation, in 1833, he entered upon the study of his profession. Two years were spent at Saratoga Springs, with Judge Ezek Cowan, eminent as a jurist and author, and continued his studies in the office of Nicholas Hill of Albany, one of the most accomplished lawyers of the New York bar. A third year was spent at the New Haven Law School, attached to Yale College, under the instruction of Judges Daggett and Hitchcock.

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At the completion of his term of study, he was strongly urged by Mr. Hill to join him in a co-partnership for the practice of law in New York City ; but a friend, who had spent a short time at the West and in Chicago, returned with such glowing accounts of the wondrous possibilities of this new city, with its inducements to young men of energy and enterprise, that he was led to change his partly formed plans, and in July, 1836, came to Chicago. He was admitted to the bar immediately on his arrival, and in the autumn entered upon the active practice of the law. In 1839-40 he was elected city attorney, and transacted the law business of the city with eminent success. He was master-in-chancery for Cook County for many years, but his first purely political appointment was that of the United States district attorney, by President Tyler to succeed Justin Butterfield, the district then embracing the entire state.

The year 1841 he married Elizabeth Magill Williams, of Middletown, Conn.

Mr. Skinner was elected a member of the Illinois Legislature in 1846, the session being held from the first Monday in December (7), 1846, until March 1, 1847. In the light of subsequent history, we recognize the priceless value of the arduous, broad, and enduring work accomplished by him during this brief period. "He was made chairman of the

MARK SKINNER LIBRARY

Committee on Finance, at that time the most important committee in the House. During the time that he occupied this position, he drew up and procured the passage through the house of a bill refunding the State debt—a bill which was far-reaching in its influence upon the finances of the State. It reduced all the multiplied forms of State indebtedness—there being six or eight different styles of State bonds—into a convenient and manageable shape, ascertained the limit of the debt, and effectually cut off the possibility of frauds in issuing new and unauthorized issues of bonds. In fact, the bill evoked method and system out of financial chaos, brought the debt of the State into an intelligible condition and, correspondingly, placed its credit upon a healthy basis. This session was also memorable as the one calling the State Convention which formed the second State Constitution. Upon the question of apportionment of delegates to this convention, Northern and Southern Illinois were arrayed against each other. The southern members claimed that the apportionment should be made upon the basis of the census of 1840, which would have given their section—that is, the counties south of Springfield—the majority in the convention ; and, *vice versa*, the northern members claimed that it should be made upon the basis of the census

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of 1845, which, in turn, would have given the northern counties the majority. As the construction of the phraseology of the old Constitution could be made favorable to either side, the contest was naturally a very excited and bitter one. The championship of the northern side of the question in the House, by tacit consent, devolved upon Mr. Skinner ; and, after a long struggle, his energy and excellent management carried the day. At this session, also, Mr. Skinner's influence was felt in the passage of the measure to recommend a partial payment of the interest on the State indebtedness. Up to that time the interest had been in default for many years, with a disposition to repudiate, which had long been manifest in some quarters, thereby giving the State credit a very unfavorable reputation at the financial centers of the country. It was this same question of the State debt which gave interest to the sectional contest on the appointment of delegates to the State convention, and entailed upon this apportionment the most important financial results ; for, however the southern counties might stand upon the question of payment of the debt—and there were grave fears as to their attitude—it was very well known that the northern counties were unanimously in favor of paying the interest in full, and of liquidating the principal at maturity, or as soon

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thereafter as the condition of the State finances would admit.

"In 1851, Mr. Skinner was elected judge of the Cook County Court of Common Pleas, now the superior court of Cook County. He declined a re-election in 1853, on account of ill health. The labors of the bench at that time were almost insupportable, especially when one's strength was limited. Judge Skinner was the sole judge of the court, and practically did the business appertaining to the higher courts of the county at that time, the Circuit Court holding but two short terms annually, and the Recorder's Court not yet being in existence. All the criminal and nine-tenths of the civil business of the county was transacted in this court, and imposed an enormous burden of care and responsibility." I make the above extract from a writer familiar with those early days.

Seldom is it that a professional career, so limited in time, leaves so profound and lasting an impress as did these seventeen years which included his practice at the bar and his occupancy of the bench.

In looking at his legal career, I may say that litigation for its own sake, possessed for him no attractions. He could only enter the arena and deal vigorous blows when convinced that justice was his ally. His thorough education in the principles of law and equity,

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secured for him, under all circumstances, the respect of the bar and the bench. He had a strong hold on his clients, through an unbending rectitude, a shrewd insight into the cardinal principles involved, and also a delicate sense of honor. With an unusual quickness of perception he united moderation in action—a rare combination.

The same cause which led Judge Skinner to decline re-election to the bench, operated to prevent him from resuming the general practice of his profession.

There is a trust of which I would speak, to which Judge Skinner gave his best thought, and perhaps no other work of his will project itself forward with more enduring and potent influence upon our city and country—I refer to his work as executor and trustee under the will of the late Walter Loomis Newberry. He was, during the long years of their residence in this city, Mr. Newberry's intimate friend and confidential adviser. He drew his will, and how much we are indebted to him for the munificent bequest which in the establishment of the Newberry Library is now being executed, we may never know. It was so clearly drawn that its validity has never been assailed. A purely collateral question, touching the time for the division of the estate, after one of the severest contests known in our State courts, was decided

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against the contestants, in favor of the plain intention of the testator, as evidenced in the language of the will. In the simple and broad provision for the establishment and conduct of the library, enabling those upon whom may devolve the important trust of its development, to meet the varying and unknown exigencies of the future, we see his sagacity, and his thoughtful appreciation of this grand provision for the interests of literature and sound learning.

Thus from various sources is briefly sketched the distinctively professional and business life of Judge Skinner. His connection in both spheres were extensive. While not entering the field of politics, which at one time opened to him, or the attractive field of authorship or journalism, for which his thorough historic studies, and careful observation of current events, with his masterly command of the pen, so rarely fitted him, his influence was yet more potent and extended than that of the politician, or orator, or journalist, in shaping the history of this city; and erecting for Chicago and the Northwest a standard of life and morals whose influence will be felt as the years roll on.

Of the political views of Judge Skinner, one who knew him in the early years of his residence in Chicago, writes: "His character and education gave him a leading posi-

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tion as a straightforward, reliable member of the democratic party, although it can not be said that he has ever been a professional politician."

At a later date, when the conflict which distinctly involved the anti-slavery sentiment of the country had begun, the following incident indicates Judge Skinner's attitude: "In April, 1854, a meeting of prominent Chicago and State politicians, including Democrats and Whigs who were opposed to the course of Stephen A. Douglas in the Senate, was held in room 4, Tremont House. There were present, Abraham Lincoln, Lyman Trumbull, Mark Skinner, Orville H. Browning, John T. Stuart, David Davis, Norman Buel Judd, J. Young Scammon, Francis C. Sherman, and others equally well known. Those present pledged themselves to the support of an anti-Nebraska party, and appointed a committee to agitate the subject. This led to that fusion of sentiment that revolutionized the politics of the entire northern part of the State."

Two years after, on Saturday evening, May 31, 1856, one of the earliest and most enthusiastic Kansas meetings ever gathered in the Northwest was held in the Court-house square. Here Norman B. Judd presided, and the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the people of Illinois will aid the freedom of Kansas.

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Resolved, That they will send a colony of five hundred actual settlers to that Territory, and provision them for one year.

Resolved, That these settlers will invade no man's rights, but will maintain their own.

Resolved, That we recommend the adoption of a similar policy to the people of all the States of the Union, ready and willing to aid ; and also, a thorough concert and co-operation among them, through committees of correspondence, on this subject.

Resolved, That an executive committee of seven, *viz.* : J. C. Vaughn, Mark Skinner, George W. Dole, Isaac N. Arnold, Norman B. Judd, and Edward I. Tinkham be appointed with full powers to carry into execution these resolutions.

A finance committee was also appointed to raise and distribute material aid. The resolutions were passed amidst the most enthusiastic and prolonged cheering.

The deep conviction thus wrought into Judge Skinner's life prepared him to take the strong position he assumed as a member of the Republican party when the Civil War came upon us. During a journey taken with him to Washington, in the summer of 1861, after the commencement of hostilities, in the prosecution of the duties devolved upon us in connection with the needs of the army, I well remember his emphatic and clear exposi-

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tion of the underlying principles of the great conflict—his abhorrence of the injustice and unsound philosophy of the State-rights views, advocated by the Southern leaders, then widely disseminated in this country and England; and the manner in which his acute mind stripped off every specious pretense from their plausible reasoning. In contrast, he dwelt upon the principle of right enunciated in the then recent action of Congress, and their accordance with the truth laid down by the founders of our Government, of which the Constitution was the legitimate and beneficent outgrowth. All this made upon my mind an indelible impression.

The large demands made upon private means for aid in the outset of our War found in Judge Skinner a generous response. And here we naturally turn from a consideration of his business and professional career to his work as a philanthropist.

I notice first his connection with the United States Sanitary Commission.

From a peace basis, which gave employment to a few thousand troops, there suddenly sprang into existence an army of a hundred thousand men, finally increased to a million, utterly uninured to the trying vicissitudes of a soldier's life. Bloody battles soon followed, creating necessities on the field and in hospitals with which our re-

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cently improvised medical bureau was unable to cope. Then came the call for aid which found quick response among all patriots, especially in the hearts of loyal women whose dearest ones were at the front.

On June, 9, 1861, the Secretary of War issued an order appointing certain gentlemen "a commission of enquiry and advice in respect of the sanitary interest of the United States forces." Work for the sanitary needs of our soldiers was at once undertaken, much was accomplished during the months that followed, and on October 17th, the organization of the Northwestern Sanitary Commission was effected at an enthusiastic public meeting held in our city. A committee of seven was chosen, who at once organized by the election of officers, Judge Skinner being the unanimous choice for the president. Time forbids that I should even outline the steps by which, from modest beginnings, this beneficent work developed into its wonderful proportions. In it all, especially in securing the large benefactions from city and country, which made such success possible, we recognized our indebtedness to the influence, the words, the pen of our honored president.

Until early in the year 1864, Judge Skinner remained at the head of this patriotic work, whose grandeur, like mountain ranges, grows more impressive as they recede. Impaired

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health compelled his resignation at this time. The blessing of thousands is the reward of such self-denying labor.

Let me here quote a characterization of this work, as presented on a recent occasion, by Judge Skinner's pastor :

"We can not forget—we who love these United States, we who bless that Omnipresent wisdom that went forth with our armies, that it was this man who represented the heroic love of this great Northwest, as the indefatigable head of that Sanitary Commission whose heart and hand went forth to mother those devoted legions whose front of loyalty held the Thermopylæ of civilization."

In recognition of these patriotic services, the Loyal Legion of the United States, in accordance with the provision of its charter, elected Hon. Mark Skinner and Ezra Butler McCagg, his equally zealous successor in the presidency of the Commission, companions of the order. By an extended notice and resolutions adopted October 13, 1887, the State Commandery fittingly testified to his character and services.

I may not forbear to speak of the greatest gift, which as a father, he bestowed upon his country in her hour of need. Richard Skinner, his only remaining son, who had recently, with honor, graduated at Yale, heard the call of duty and responded to it. After brief and

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honorable service he fell in the trenches before Petersburg, June 22, 1864.

So far as I can discover, with every philanthropic agency in the history of this city, broad, true, permanent in character, we do find Judge Skinner associated either officially, or through personal influence, or by financial aid.

From the first years of his residence in Chicago, he was the reliable friend of the common school. His early New England associations naturally produced his high estimate of education. In 1842, he was elected one of the seven school inspectors, of whom J. Young Scammon and Grant Goodrich still survive. Upon the city schools and the conservation of the school fund he bestowed much time and thought. His broad views during those formative years of our public school system were shown by his interest in securing co-operation among the friends of education throughout the State. This was accomplished by organizing school conventions, in which the Teachers' Institute had its origin, which has continued as a valued educational auxiliary to the present time. In 1859, the city did itself honor, in perpetuating the services of a faithful citizen, in naming one of its most commodious school buildings—erected at the southeast corner of Aberdeen and West Jackson streets—The Skinner School. To this school his gifts have been frequent,

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especially to its carefully selected library—the last bill for books, amounting to six hundred dollars, being paid by his order while he was upon his sick bed at Manchester.

In the earliest effort made for the intellectual and social improvement of the young men of this city, Judge Skinner took a prominent part. On the evening of January 10, 1841, a few gentlemen met in the hardware store of Seth T. Otis, to take measures for securing a reading-room and library. Judge Skinner drew up a subscription paper and all present signed it. This preliminary meeting was followed by another on the 30th of the same month, held in the chamber of the Common Council, in which the organization was completed under the name of The Young Men's Association of Chicago, afterward changed to the Chicago Library Association—the predecessor of the present Public Library.

The Chicago Lyceum had been instituted on December 2, 1834, of which the late Thomas Hoyne stated: "It was the foremost institution in the city when he came here in 1837." At that time, he says, "Not a man of note, not a man in the city of any trade or profession, who had any taste for intellectual and social enjoyment, who loved books, conversation, and debate, but belonged to the Lyceum." Of this Lyceum, Judge Skinner was a leading member.

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Judge Skinner was ever alive to calls for alleviation of suffering. The County Hospital was first opened March 30, 1847, and two years after, on October 29, 1849, was incorporated under the name of The Illinois General Hospital of the Lake, the charter trustees being Hon. Mark Skinner, Hon. H. T. Dickey, and Dr. John Evans.

The Chicago Home for the Friendless was organized in 1858. To this Judge Skinner gave his advice and experience, and was one of its early presidents, in 1860-61. He was also a member of the first board of trustees of The Illinois Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Judge Skinner was one of the incorporators of The Chicago Relief and Aid Society, and he also took a prominent part in the founding of the Chicago Reform School, whose location many of us remember in the southern part of the city, now Kenwood, and whose influence for good we could ill-afford to spare. No institution has since filled its place in our city. He was made the first president of the board of directors, a position for which he was eminently qualified, and which he held for years. To the organization and management of this excellent institution he devoted time and personal attention without stint. "He visited and inspected the reformatory institutions of the

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Eastern and Middle States, and carefully studied the documentary records of similar schools in England, France, and Germany. The result was a decided conviction that the family system of reforming juvenile offenders was infinitely preferable to the congregated system in practice in this country. He labored zealously to effect this change, and finally succeeded in grafting the system upon our own institution.

Of Judge Skinner's intimate connection with the Chicago Historical Society our records bear constant testimony. In its original planning and organization, in the growth of its collections, and the building erected before the fire and in the restoration since, his wise counsel, his active co-operation, and liberal contributions have been recognized.

His estimate of the value of the Historical Society was high. We have often heard him express, in his emphatic way, his clear conception of its important function in the community as the conservator of material for the history of our city and country.

In this connection it is natural to speak of Judge Skinner's love of books, and his cultivated literary taste. His library was his chosen retreat. Its richly laden shelves now bear witness to his scholarly taste and historic research. Particularly choice was the large

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collection of Americana, for whatever related to early New England history and literature had for him a keen attraction. The total loss of his book and art treasures by the great fire was a subject on which he could not speak unmoved. From his own lips I know of the persistency with which he clung to his early formed habit of studious reading, even in the midst of the busy life which pressed upon him. Hence the enjoyment derived from this source in later years. He experienced the truth of Cicero's words: "*Haec studia adolescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant.*"

For New England, for its early history, for the development of civil and religious liberty in the mother country, for the struggles of the founders on these shores, where nature and savage man joined forces to oppose, Judge Skinner ever cherished the most profound and reverential affection. He was one of the founders of the New England Society of this city, as I learn from the records, and nearly forty years since, on December 22, 1848, he delivered an address before the society, which at the request of a large number of citizens was published. "A Vindication of the Character of the Pilgrim Fathers" was the theme, and in close historical study of the subject, in clear convincing argument, and eloquence of direction, the oration was one of the

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most remarkable addresses delivered in Chicago."

In this connection should be mentioned the peculiar attachment he cherished for his early home—Manchester, Vermont—a love so deep and strong that it constituted a part of his very life—drawing him year by year, as a devoted son, with irresistible attraction, from the pressure and care of an active life to feel the renewing touch of beautiful nature, intensified by the treasured associations of childhood and youth.

One of his last drives was to the home of relatives, a short distance south of the village. It was a brilliant August day. He rested, seated upon the piazza. Behind him stretched the Taconic Range, crowned by Mount Equinox, its king. Before him lay in incomparable beauty the valley of the Battenkill, and the Green Mountain Range beyond. In quiet thought he sat, his eye commanding the line of hills for a distance of forty miles, from north to south. Then memory awoke, of boyhood, manhood, age, and from Mount Anthony on the south, overlooking the battlefield of Bennington, to Mount Dorset, which terminates the field of vision to the northward, did he point out each peak, telling its former and present name, the historical associations and traditions, with memories of men who had among them lived and

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died—a scene which will to many loving hearts ever make consecrate this spot.

Of Judge Skinner's religious life, I may briefly speak, though in a true and lofty sense, all his life was religious in his allegiance to duty. He was a member of and an elder for many years in the Presbyterian Church, holding this latter office until the date of his death, which occurred at Manchester, Vermont, on September 16, 1887.

On that September day, under the trees shaded with autumnal tints, all that was mortal of Mark Skinner was carried by loving hands from the house in which he was born to the resting-place chosen by himself beside his parents and sons. This sacred spot in the guardianship of the eternal hills will ever speak of his loving thoughtfulness and generous gifts, which make it a consecrated memorial. As we turn away, there comes a voice of peace and consolation suggested by the sculptured angels which guard the gate of entrance: "I am the resurrection and the life, whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

You who knew Judge Skinner will recall the characteristic traits which combined to make him the man he was among us—the delightful companion, the faithful friend and counselor, the strong reliance in the hour of exigency, the honored example. Yet it was

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not his conversational powers and flashing wit alone, though these he possessed preëminently; it was not his fidelity and wisdom alone, though in these, few equalled him; it was not insight into character and thoughtful consideration for the needs and the weaknesses of others, though many can testify to these traits; it was not his consistent Christian life alone; but it was the harmonious blending of all these native gifts and acquirements which makes us mourners for his absence as we meet to-night.

Many and large have been the gifts of New England to the West. Her means have builded our railroads, tunneled our mountains, spanned our rivers with structures which challenge the wonder of the world. Her wealth has done more, it has furnished our school-houses and academies, it has endowed our colleges and seminaries, has given books to our libraries, and builded our churches; but greater than all these has been the gift of her sons, of men educated in New England principles, who have brought them hither, and on prairie and in city have taught them, possibly not by pen or tongue, but by that most potent of all influence—the logic of a true life. Thus to-day are Harvard and Yale, Amherst and Middlebury, Dartmouth and Bowdoin speaking in living words, reiterating in the valley of the lakes and the great river,

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on the plains and beside the mountains and on the Pacific Coast, the principles of truth, energy, integrity, perseverance, learning, Christianity. Such a gift to our young city in days long gone was Mark Skinner: in such utterance will he be heard as time rolls on.

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